

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 27-51 were pending. Without conceding any of the examiner's positions, the applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 29, 42, 43, and 51. The applicant has added new claims 52-59. Claims 1-8 and 27-55 are now pending and submitted for consideration. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and at least at page 39, lines 10-20 and page 43, lines 5 - 25.

The examiner rejected claims 1-8, and 27-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,295,521 to DeMarcken ("DeMarcken"). DeMarcken does not anticipate each and every claim limitation of applicant's invention. Currently amended claim 1 recites a requirements generator module to generate a plurality of diverse travel requirements and a selection module to output a set of diverse travel options smaller than a candidate set of travel options by selecting from the candidate set of travel options, for each diverse travel requirement ... one or more travel options that satisfy that travel requirement....

DeMarcken discloses a system for extracting a smaller set of travel options from a larger set of travel options. DeMarcken, however does not disclose a system for outputting a set of diverse travel options by selecting travel options for each of a plurality of diverse travel requirements. The areas of DeMarcken cited by the examiner (i.e., col. 4, lines 4-14, col. 5, line 25-col. 6, line 27, and col. 45, lines 23-28) do not disclose outputting a diverse set of travel options, or generating a plurality of diverse travel requirements. In fact, there is no mention of diversity at all in these sections. Because DeMarcken does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper for claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 and 27-28. For at least these reasons, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 27-28 be withdrawn.

DeMarcken does not teach each and every limitation of claim 29 either. Currently amended claim 29 recites ...enumerating a first ordered list ... compliant with a first travel requirement, enumerating a second ordered list ... compliant with a second travel requirement that represents a different value in a category identical to the first travel requirement, and combining a first number of travel options from the first ordered list with a second number of

travel options from the second ordered list to output a diverse set of travel options....

DeMarcken discloses a system for extracting a smaller set of travel options from a larger set of travel options. DeMarcken, however does not disclose a system where there is a second travel requirement that represents a different value in a category identical to the first travel requirement. For example, page 39 of the applicant's specification teaches travel requirements 2 and 3, which are "all flights on American Airlines" and "all flights on United Airlines", respectively. Here, both travel requirements correspond to the category of all flights on a particular airline. The different values for these two specific examples are American Airlines and United Airlines. Similarly, travel requirements 5 and 6 correspond to the category of flights departing at a particular segment of time, with the different values being morning and evening. In this specific example, diversity is ensured because the set of travel options will include flights on American and on United, regardless of which are the cheapest or most convenient (e.g., non-stop). Because DeMarcken does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 29, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper for claim 29 and its dependent claims 30-50. Similarly, independent claim 51 has the same limitations as claim 29. For at least these reasons, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 29-51 be withdrawn.

Applicant has added new claims 52-59. These claim are distinct over DeMarcken since does not teach each and every limitation of the claims. Claim 52 recites ... establishing a plurality of travel requirement templates, for each travel requirement template, defining a plurality of travel requirements, each of the travel requirements corresponding to a different value of the respective travel requirement template ..., and for each travel requirement in the set of diversity requirements selecting from the candidate set of travel options a travel option that satisfies that travel requirement, combining the selected travel options ... to generate the diverse set of travel options .... DeMarken does not disclose using different values of a travel requirement template to define a plurality of travel requirements. DeMarken also does not disclose for each travel requirement in the set of diversity requirements to select from the candidate set of travel options a travel option that satisfies that travel requirement, combine the

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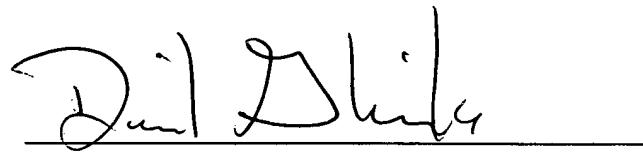
selected travel options ... to generate the diverse set of travel options. Claim 52 and its dependent claims 53-55 are distinct for at least these reasons.

Claims 56-59, which are drawn to a computer program product including similar limitation as claims 52-55 and are distinct for similar reasons as claims 52-55.

Enclosed are a \$316.00 check for excess claim fees and a \$110.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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